
“Thank You... More than Manners”

Luke 17:11-17 Sunday School Lesson



The story of Jesus healing the ten lepers contains several important insights. For kids, one obvious take-away is the value of gratitude and saying thank you—both to people and especially to God. This story also includes a message of the mercy of Christ. He healed the stricken men, and even though only one returned to say thank you, He did not punish those who neglected to do so. Another interesting note is that the man who did come back was a Samaritan, typically looked down on in Jewish culture. This lesson focuses largely on the element of thanksgiving, but feel free to use whatever methods and emphasis you prefer to communicate the Scripture.

Lesson focus: Everything in our lives comes from God. We often forget to offer Him thanks and praise, but we should remember to always lift our eyes to the Lord and be grateful. It’s also important to say thank you to important people in our lives who help us along the way.

Passage: Luke 17:11-19; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Philippians 4:6-7

Target Audience: Kindergarten-6th grade (See notes for specific age modifications)

Materials Needed: Construction paper; paper bags; glue; popsicle sticks; stickers; googly eyes; felt; pipe cleaners; tape; scissors; decorative supplies; Bibles

Bonus Ideas:

- Our website posts new [Sunday School lessons for kids](#) every week (100% free)
- Watch the video [teaching example of this children’s sermon](#)
- Download our [printable “Thank You” card coloring pages](#)
- Download our [pastor appreciation coloring pages](#)
- See the [craft ideas](#) and [video](#) for this Sunday School lesson



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Activities to Introduce the Lesson

Start off with a couple of activities to get kids thinking about giving thanks...

- (Younger students) Manners test...give each child a small item, like a sticker or a little snack. Wait to see who says “thank you” in response to the gift. For bonus emphasis, you might take back the item if a student does not say thanks! Or merely give lavish praise for those who do remember to say thank you.
- (Older students) Split students into two teams and give them a time limit. Have groups compete to see who can come up with the most items that they can give thanks for. Discuss the lists, and suggest to students the possibility of putting things that are difficult in the “thanks” category, rather than just positive things.

Explain to students that they will be discussing the importance of being thankful and talking about how we can show appreciation to God and to one another. At the same time, God’s grace and mercy cover us even when we neglect to be openly grateful.



Sunday School Lesson (Luke 17:11-19)

Jesus Heals 10 Men with Leprosy

Here's a fun hint: make this story extra interactive by giving the kids "leprosy"! Make a paste out of baking soda and a tiny bit of water, and spread it onto students' hands or arms. Describe how the disease would often impact skin and body parts. After talking about the healing, wipe the baking soda off of the kids so they can be "healed". Talk about how leprosy was a debilitating and alienating disease. Share the story:

On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers,^[f] who stood at a distance ¹³ and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." -Luke 17:11-13

Briefly explain how, in the time of Christ, having a sickness was often seen as a sign of sin. These men are begging for mercy, recognizing that only God could heal them. They had probably heard of what Jesus had done for people, and sought His help with faith that He could provide. So what did Jesus do?

When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; ¹⁶ and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. -Luke 17:14-16



Tell kids about a couple more cultural customs. When a person was healed from illness, they were supposed to go to the temple and show themselves to the priest. Jesus told these guys to do so even before they were healed. But they had faith that God would heal them, so they followed Christ's instructions. Imagine being physically ill, cast out, and considered "unclean", and then being made new! Surely those guys must have been incredibly excited and grateful.

How do you think you would react if that happened to you? Well, note in the story, how many of those who were healed came to tell Jesus "thank you"? Only one out of ten! And this passage mentions that the man who came back to Jesus was a Samaritan. That meant he was from out of town, and usually considered not as pure or important in Jewish society. Yet he was the only one who came to give Jesus praise and thank Him for His healing.

Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? ¹⁸ Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."^l -Luke 17:17-19

It sounds like Jesus might have been a little disappointed that more of those men who received healing did not come back and give thanks. Could He have called down fire from heaven and punished the other men? Sure. But Jesus demonstrated ever-flowing grace and mercy. He told this man to go on His way, and was surely glad that at least someone demonstrated appreciation.

And you know, we might hear this story and think that the 9 "ungrateful" lepers seem just terrible. But think about it a little...do we always give thanks to God? Do we remember how much He gives us every day? Do we recognize His constant hand in our lives and praise Him always?

Well....maybe not always, huh? We might have to admit that we, too, often neglect gratitude and forget to give God thanks for His blessings. And you know what else?



Remind kids that God is not only good when things go our way. He is always present, allowing all things for His will. So we can give thanks and pray not only when things seem to go our way, but ALL of the time!

*Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. -1
Thessalonians 5:16-18*

And when we do so, a great promise is given:

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. -Philippians 4:6-7

Close with prayer and thank God for giving us all that we have. Ask Him to help us serve and thank him always, even when things are difficult.



“Leper” Sunday School Crafts

Each week we prepare several [Sunday School Crafts](#) to give you bonus ideas for your teaching.

Leper paper bag or popsicle stick puppet:

Help students make a fun puppet in honor of the healed lepers. Here are methods of doing so:

- Decorate a paper bag or popsicle stick, drawing a face on each side.
- Add drawn or glued spots on one side for the “leper.”
- Add eyes and embellishments, if desired.
- Attach a verse and have fun with your double-sided friend!

Thank you card and paperweight fun

- Fold a paper (construction paper or card stock) in a card shape.
- Decorate with stickers, markers, ribbons, etc.
- Write a special note of gratitude inside.
- Additional option: paint or write on a stone or decorative craft rock to make a “you rock” paperweight in demonstration of thanks and appreciation.



Luke 17:11-19 NIV

Jesus Heals Ten Men with Leprosy

On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance ¹³ and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." ¹⁴ When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; ¹⁶ and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? ¹⁸ Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well." [-Luke 17:11-19 NIV](#)



“Give Thanks Say – Say Thanks”

Bible Crafts for Sunday School

Give Thanks...Say Thanks! [Craft Ideas for Sunday School](#)

The story of the ten lepers is a great reminder that we need to express gratitude in word and deed. It's important to communicate to students that this lesson is about the grace and mercy of Jesus, and to remind them that He makes all wonderful things in our lives possible. These crafts highlight the story of the lepers and their transformation into healed men...

Additionally, this is a great time of year to make special cards and crafts in honor of Pastor Appreciation month. Cards always have plenty of room for creativity...feel free to use artistic flair and add the “You ROCK” element if desired!

- Download our [printable “Thank You” card coloring pages](#)
- See the full [Luke 17:11-19 Sunday School lesson](#)
- Download our [pastor appreciation coloring pages](#)

Scripture Verses or Captions to consider:

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. -1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

And he said to him, “Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.” -Luke 17:19

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. -Philippians 4:6-7



Craft one: “Leper Popsicle stick Puppet”

You will need:

- Popsicle sticks or clothespins
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Felt or fabric
- Glue
- Pipe cleaners
- Markers/decorative materials



Procedure:

1. Decorate popsicle sticks with markers, drawing a face and “spots” on one side.
2. Embellish the puppet with felt “clothes” or robes.
3. Add pipe cleaners for extra flair, if desired.
4. Add a happy face on one side.
5. Flip the puppet back and forth to “heal” him!



Craft Two: Leper Paper Bag Puppet

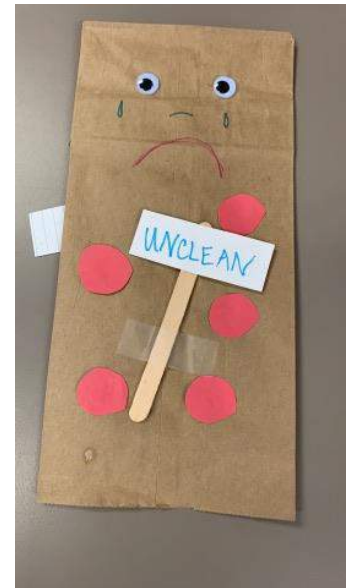
You will need:

- Construction paper
- Glue
- Scissors
- Felt, if desired
- Googly eyes
- Pens/decorative material



Procedure:

1. Decorate the paper bags as with faces, making one side happy and another sad.
2. Add googly eyes and “clothes,” if desired.
3. On the “leprous” side, glue cut out spots.
4. Add signs on each side, for extra flair, making one read “unclean” and another “healed”.
5. Flip your puppet back and forth to share the story!



Craft Three: Thank you card

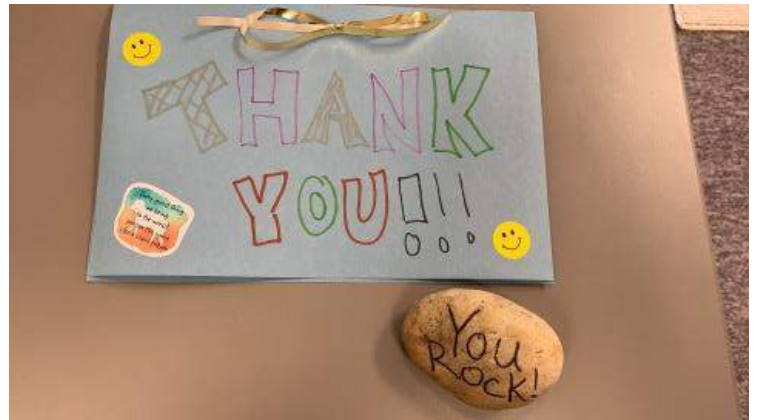
You will need:

- Construction paper
- Stickers
- Scissors
- Ribbon
- Pens/decorative material
- Rock (optional)




Procedure:

1. Fold paper in a card-like shape (double or four-way fold).
2. Add captions and words of thanks.
3. Dress up the card with stickers, ribbons, and drawings, as desired. Don't forget to write a special note inside!
4. For an additional fun thank you gift, decorate a stone or craft rock with markers or paint. Add a caption like "you rock"!
5. Give to a pastor or someone extra special!

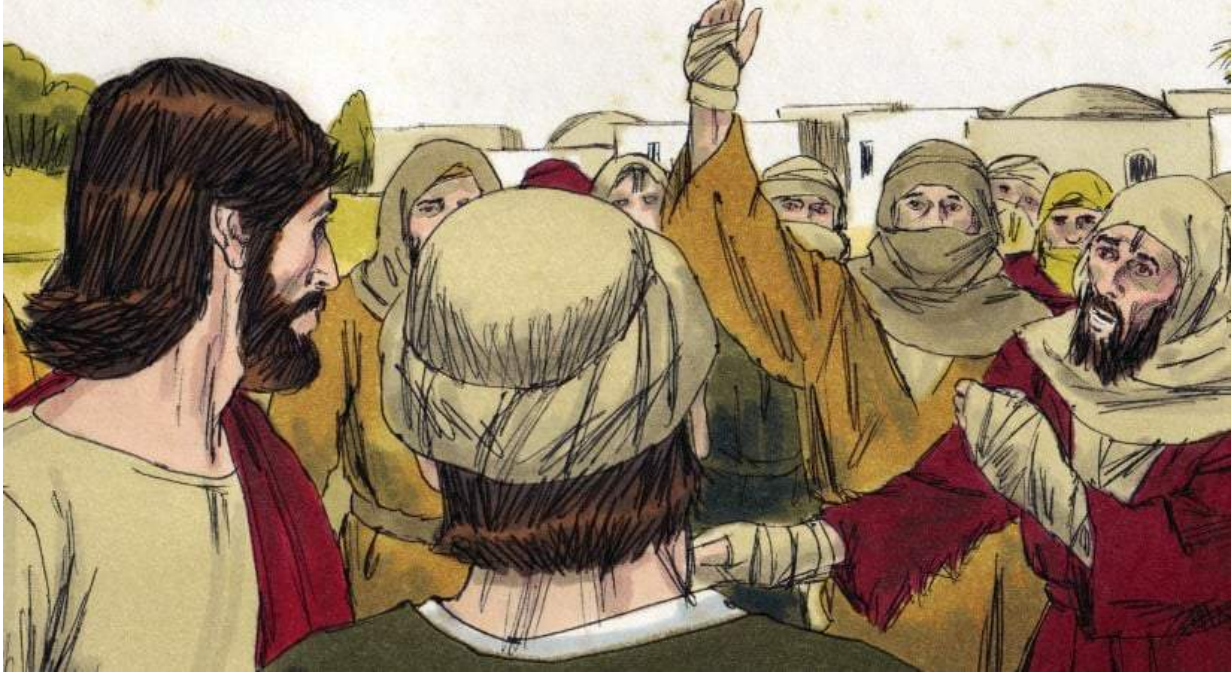


Jesus heals 10 Lepers (Luke 17:11-19) Preschool Lesson

 ministry-to-children.com/jesus-heals-the-10-lepers-thankfulness-bible-lesson

Brittany Putman

November 18,
2013



This free lesson plan is based on the events of Luke 17 when Jesus healed 10 men of leprosy. It highlights the theme of thankfulness to God, especially for the mercy Jesus shows for us. Children will learn that we should always say “thank you” to God for his kindness.

Lesson Title: Saying Thank You to God

Bible Reference: Luke 17:11-19

Target Age Group: Pre-school

Learning Context: Sunday School

Target Time Frame: One Hour

Memory Verse: “One of them, when he saw that he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice.” Luke 17:15

Gospel Connection: This lesson focuses on giving thanks to God for all that He has done for us. In the gospel of Luke we read the story of the 10 Lepers who were healed by Jesus. One of these men returned and thanked Jesus for healing him, but the other nine forgot. We know that God is worthy of our praise now at Thanksgiving and all year. This lesson will encourage children to thank God for all that He has done for them.

Learning Aim:

1. Children will learn that we should continually give thanks to God for all that he has given us.

Basic Supply List:

1. Bible (verses below provided in NIRV)
2. Construction Paper
3. Hole Puncher
4. Ribbon
5. Crayons

Note: In the teaching plan below the words in *italics* are meant to be read aloud. The regular text is simply directions for the teacher.

>>> Basic Teaching Plan <<<<

Introduction: Greet each child and welcome them to class. Open by singing "10 Little Lepers" to the tune of "10 Little Indians."

Ten Little Lepers

One little, two little, three little lepers

One little, two little, three little lepers

One little, two little, three little lepers,

Ten little leper men.

The lepers said, "Jesus come heal us."

The lepers said, "Jesus come heal us."

The lepers said, "Jesus come heal us."

And that is what He did.

Just one man came back to thank him.

Just one man came back to thank him.

Just one man came back to thank him.

Always remember to thank him.

Preschool Lesson on the Ten Lepers

Begin by reading Luke 17:11-14 (NIRV)

¹¹ Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. He traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he was going into a village, ten men met him. They had a skin disease. They were standing close by. ¹³ And they called out in a loud voice, “Jesus! Master! Have pity on us!”

¹⁴ Jesus saw them and said, “Go. Show yourselves to the priests.” While they were on the way, they were healed.

Say, *The ten men in this story have leprosy. This is a disease that affects their skin. Many people did not want to be around people with leprosy. So when the lepers saw Jesus, they knew that being healed could save their lives. Jesus was not like other people. When he saw the lepers he had pity on them and healed them. Jesus didn't have to heal them, but he did because he loved them.*

Next read verses Luke 17:15-16. (NIRV)

When one of them saw that he was healed, he came back. He praised God in a loud voice. ¹⁶ He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan.

Say, *Once the lepers were healed, only one man came back to tell Jesus thank you. Can you believe that? They were healed by the power of God, and they still forgot to say thank you. I'm sure that you forget to say thank you sometimes too. But, God has done many wonderful things for us and He deserves our praise now and always.*

Next read verses Luke 17:17-19. (NIRV)

Jesus asked, “Weren't all ten healed? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸ Didn't anyone else return and give praise to God except this outsider?” ¹⁹ Then Jesus said to him, “Get up and go. Your faith has healed you.”

Say, Jesus was not happy that the nine other men forgot to come back and praise God. In our lives we should be like the one who thanked God. What types of things can you do to help you remember to always thank God?

Activity – Thank You Jesus in Sign Language

Teach the children how to say “Thank you, Jesus” in sign language.

- To say thank you, start with one hand in front of your face, vertical, with your fingertips touching your chin.

- Then move your hand down and out in front of you, keeping your palm flat.
- To say Jesus, begin with your hands open in front of you, palms up. Keep one hand still and use the middle finger of the other hand to touch your open palm.
- Repeat with the other hand. Ask the class to say some things that they are thankful for, then lead them in prayer and have them use their new sign language skills to say thank you to Jesus.

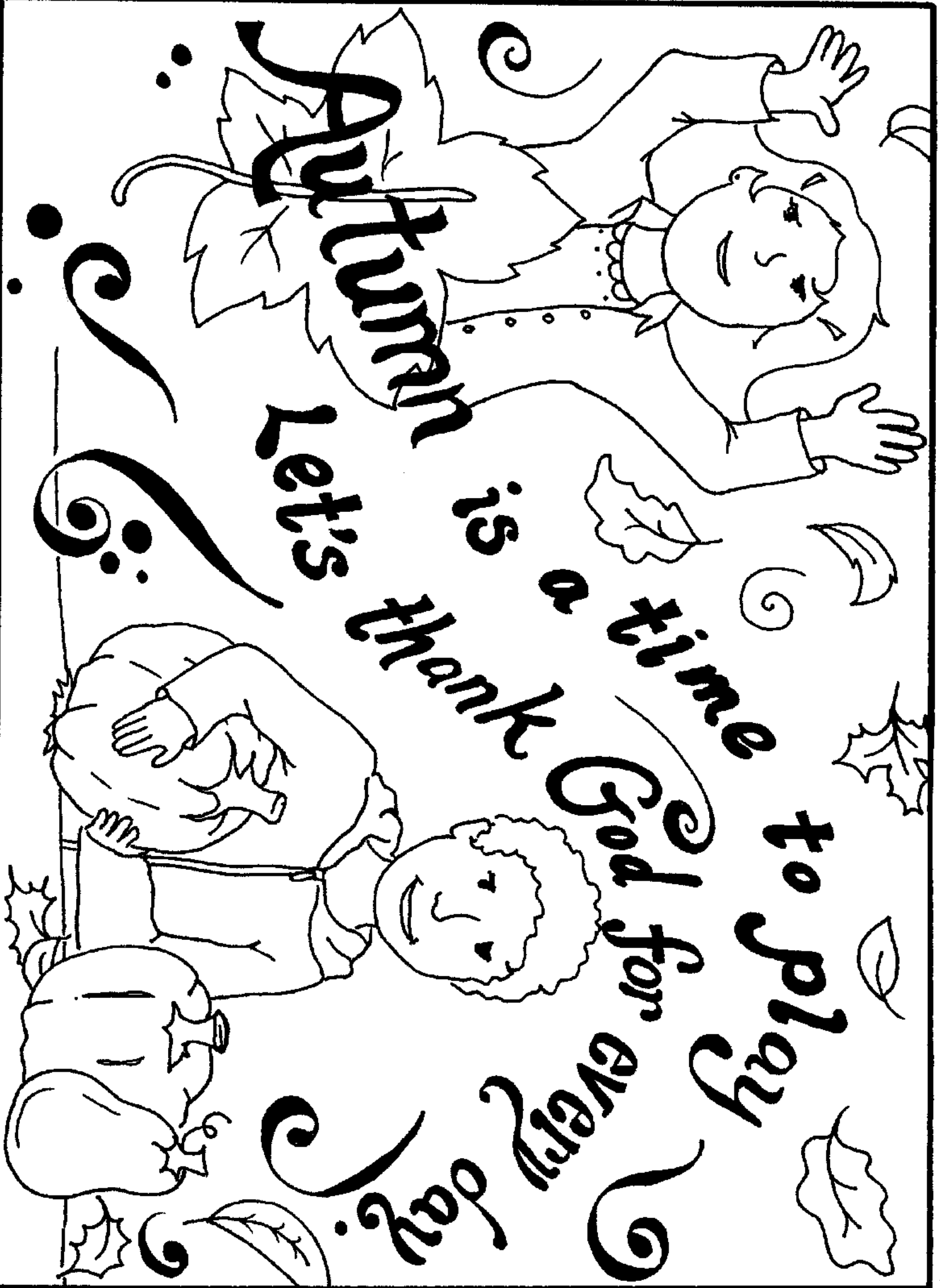
Breakthrough Game

In the story, one leper returned to Jesus to thank him while the other nine did not. This game is like reverse tag. One person will be like the leper who returned to Jesus. All of the other children will be trying to catch the leper. The leper will have to get from the start line to the finish line without being caught. The other kids will stand in the playing area. They will chase the leper, but they may only take three steps at a time. After they take three steps they must freeze and count to ten, then they are allowed to move again. Play several rounds so that different kids get to be the leper.

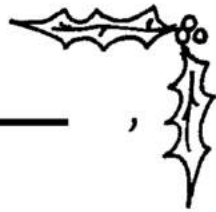
Craft – Thank you Place mats:

For this craft you will need construction paper, hole puncher, ribbon, and crayons. Each class will create a placemat that they can use when they have Thanksgiving dinner. Before class, use a hole puncher to make holes around the edges of the construction paper. Write “Thank you, Jesus” in the middle of the placemat and have the children draw things that they are thankful for around the words. Give each child some ribbon and have them lace around the edges of the placemat. Help them tie a bow at the end when they have finished lacing.

Conclusion: Close wishing the kids a Happy Thanksgiving and reminding them to always be thankful for their blessings. Pray with them, giving thanks to God for them and reminding to be like the one leper who came back and thanked Jesus.



Dear _____,



Thank you for:

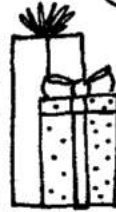
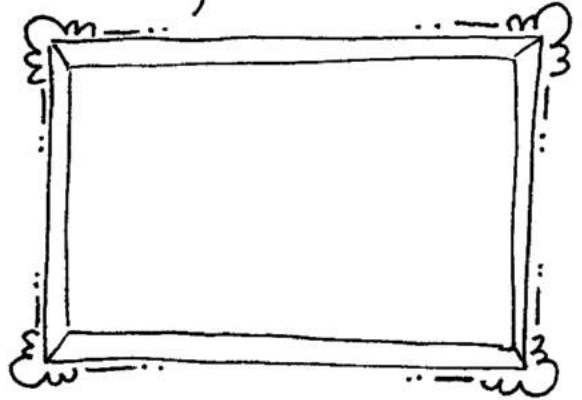
Three horizontal lines for writing a message.



Dear _____,



Thank you for:



Love,

Dear _____,

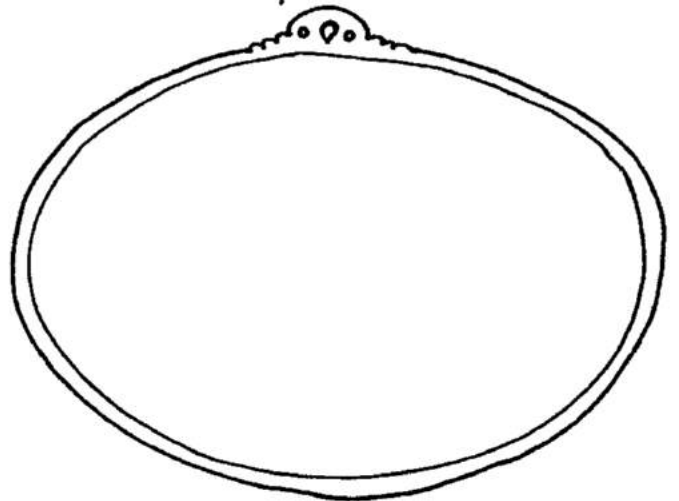
Thank you for:

Four horizontal lines for writing a message, enclosed in a decorative scalloped border.



Dear _____,

Thank you for:



Love,

We hope you enjoy this free resource.

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I'm Tony Kummer - I started this website in 2007, but God is using it beyond my imagination. The mission is simple.

Help you tell kids about Jesus!

Our team is honored that you choose our material. Thank you for ...

- serving where God has placed you.
- telling children about Jesus.
- allowing us to be a part of your mission.

We don't ask for money, but we do need your help.

Please consider the following:

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2. Link to us from your blog or church website.
3. Share our posts on Pinterest or Facebook.
4. Tell a friend to google "Ministry to Children."
5. Add me (and our team) to your personal prayer list.

I'd love to hear your feedback on this download. Tony@ministry-to-children.com

May God bless you and continue to bless your ministry!



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